

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
**CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

MUR: No. 06-0008

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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On behalf of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission (“Commission”), the Executive Director hereby provides the Statement of Reasons showing no reason to believe violations of the Citizens Clean Elections Act and or the Commission rules (collectively, the “Act”) occurred.

**I. Procedural Background**

On August 1, 2006, H. Steven Johnson (“Complainant”) filed a complaint against Janet Napolitano (“Respondent”), a participating candidate for Governor, alleging that the Respondent committed a possible violation of Arizona election law. (Exhibit A). On August 7, 2006, the Respondent responded to the complaint. (Exhibit B).

**II. Alleged Violations**

The Complainant alleges that the Respondent registered a website domain address relating to the campaign of Don Goldwater, another participating candidate for governor. Currently, users who enter the web address [www.goldwater4governor.com](http://www.goldwater4governor.com) into a web browser are redirected to the Respondent’s campaign website, [www.janet2006.com](http://www.janet2006.com). The complainant refers to this activity as a form of “political ‘identity theft.’”

The Respondent denies, through a sworn notarized statement, having “any knowledge whatsoever regarding the registration of domain name, ‘[www.goldwater4governor.com](http://www.goldwater4governor.com),’ who registered that name, or why, when that domain is entered in an internet browser, the user is automatically directed to the Napolitano campaign website, [www.janet2006.com](http://www.janet2006.com).”

There is nothing in the complaint that alleges a violation of the Act. Without proof of any coordination on behalf of the Respondent in this matter, this does not appear to be a campaign expense on behalf of the Respondent’s campaign committee. While this type of activity is quite common, and is an annoyance to a large number of candidates, the commission has no authority to stop or investigate what appears to be Cyberpiracy<sup>1</sup>.

**III. No Reason to Believe Finding**

Based on the complaint, and the Respondent’s response, the Executive Director recommends the Commission find no reason to believe violations of the Act or Commission rules occurred. Pursuant to A.A.C. R2-20-206, the Commission shall dismiss the complaint upon finding no reason to believe the alleged violations occurred.

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<sup>1</sup> Cyberpiracy is prohibited under Federal Law. 15 U.S.C. §1125(d).

Dated this \_\_\_ day of August, 2006

By:

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Todd Lang